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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

October 31, 1958

Dear Mr. President:

I am forwarding herewith the report of progress in the Military Reconnaissance Satellite Program during the quarter ending September 30, 1958. This program is under the management direction of the Advanced Research Projects Agency, Department of Defense.

The Weapons System 117L has been redesignated the SENTRY Satellite System. The SENTRY System includes all the former WS 117L subsystems and facilities, except the infra-red Very Early Warning Satellite System which is being conducted as a separate program.

The first SENTRY test vehicle is scheduled for launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base on December 6, 1958. An increase in allowable payload in the ATLAS-boosted SENTRY vehicle from approximately 3,500 to 5,000 pounds has been achieved through use of higher performance fuel. Noteworthy progress was also made during the quarter in development of new and highly successful components for the ferret reconnaissance subsystem.

The biomedical program, which has the objective of reentry and recovery of a biomedical package from orbit, is progressing on schedule.

With great respect, I am

Faithfully yours,

Acting

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Report, as stated

The President

The White House

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

JUL 18 1958

Dear Mr. President:

I am forwarding herewith the report of progress in the Military Reconnaissance Satellite Program during the quarter ending June 30, 1958. This program is under the management direction of the Advanced Research Projects Agency, Department of Defense.

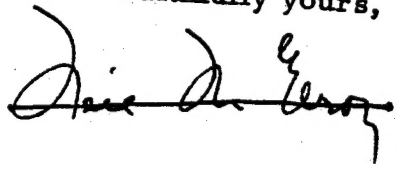
A condensed history of the Military Reconnaissance Satellite Program and an outline of plans for its implementation through development of Weapons System 117L were presented in the preceding quarterly report. The present report covers current status of these plans and discusses progress made in the development of the equipment and supporting facilities which make up Weapons System 117L.

Progress toward launching a THOR-boosted WS 117L vehicle in late 1958 is on schedule. In addition, emphasis is being placed on the development of a recoverable biosatellite capsule as a secondary objective of the program.

Decision to change the fuel used for the main engines of the launching rocket has permitted planning for use of larger payloads in the WS 117L vehicle. Studies are also in progress on utilization of solar and nuclear auxiliary power which will provide for longer life of the WS 117L satellite guidance and reconnaissance devices.

With great respect, I am

Faithfully yours,



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Report, as stated

The President

The White House

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

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JAN 29 1959

Dear Mr. President:

I am forwarding herewith the report of progress in the Military Satellite Program during the quarter ending December 31, 1958. This program is under the management direction of the Advanced Research Projects Agency, Department of Defense.

Work on basic satellite subsystems and the recoverable biomedical capsule, previously reported as part of the SENTRY Satellite System, has been redesignated DISCOVERER. Development of the photographic and electronic reconnaissance subsystems will continue under the SENTRY project. The Infrared Very Early Warning Satellite System, formerly Subsystem "G" Weapons System 117L, has been redesignated MIDAS.

Launch of DISCOVERER I on January 21, 1959 was terminated during countdown due to accidental firing of the Ullage rockets. A new launch date has not yet been established.

DISCOVERER II launch is now scheduled for February 25, 1959. Preparations for launch of DISCOVERER III in March 1959 with a recoverable biomedical payload are substantially on schedule. Recovery tests of dummy biomedical capsules dropped from aircraft have been successfully completed.

With great respect, I am

Faithfully yours,

1 Incl
Report, as stated

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06-M-0875

The President

The White House

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